

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
February 5, 2003

ITEM: 16

SUBJECT: Cover sheet for 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing: NPDES PERMIT REISSUANCE:  
NATIONAL STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING COMPANY – SAN  
DIEGO BAY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY (TENTATIVE ORDER  
NO. R9-2003-0005, NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0109134) (Paul J.  
Richter)

PURPOSE: To transmit supporting documents, response to comments  
memorandum, comment letter received after 1<sup>st</sup> mailing, and errata  
sheet.

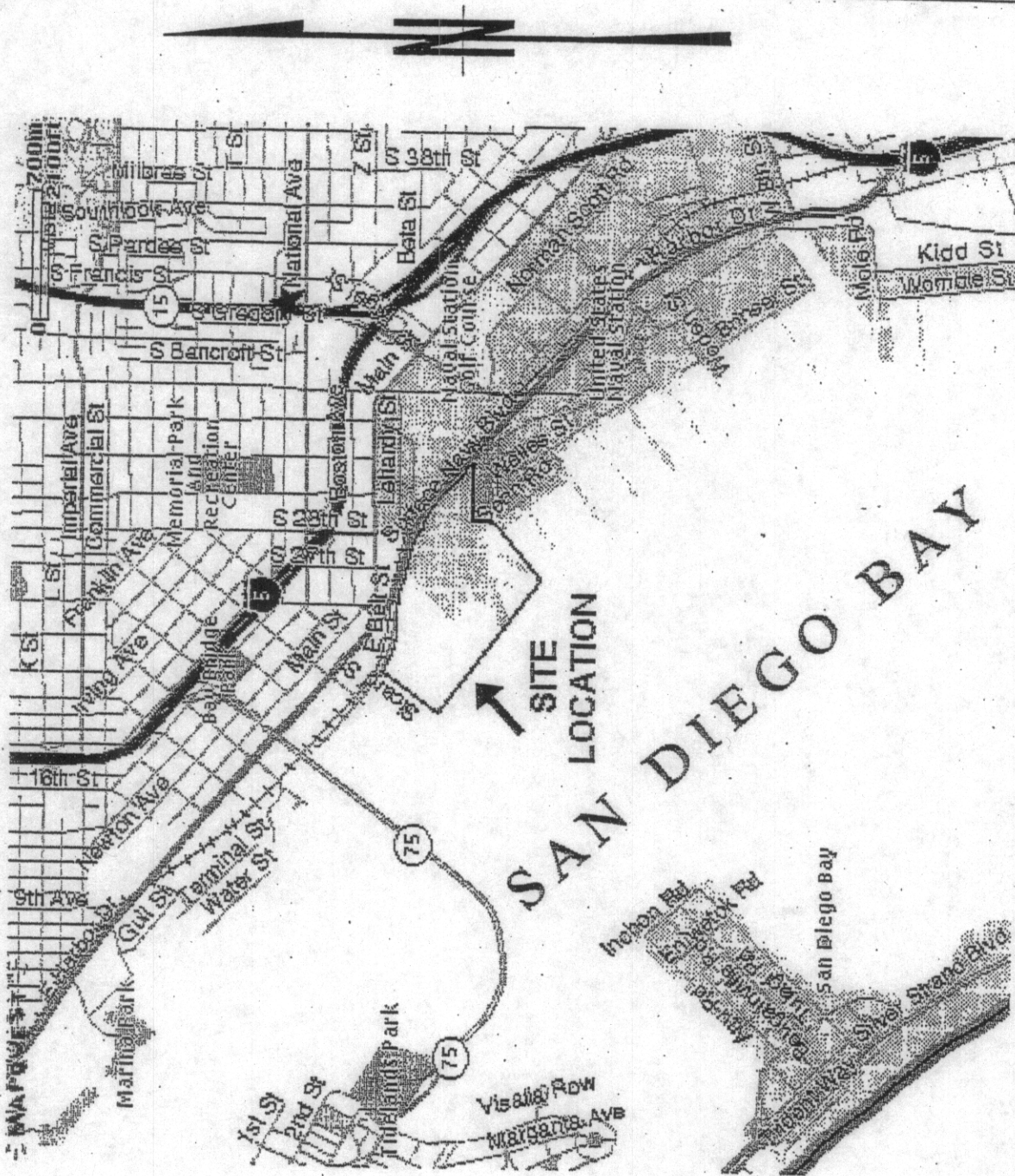
DISCUSSION: N/A

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS:

7. Location Map and Facility Plot Map (not included in the 1<sup>st</sup>  
mailing)
8. Comment letter from National Steel and Shipbuilding  
Company, dated January 23, 2003.
9. Memorandum, Response to Comments, dated January 28,  
2003.
10. Errata Sheet for tentative Order, and Monitoring and Reporting  
Program.
11. Transmittal letter for Response to Comments memorandum  
and Errata Sheet.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005.



Attachment (1) Site Location Map – NASSCO

Attachment (1)





NATIONAL STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING COMPANY

January 23, 2003

Mr. Paul Richter  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123

Supporting Document 8  
Item No. 16

Re: NASSCO's Comments on Tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005, NPDES No. CA0109134, Waste Discharge Requirements for National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, San Diego County.

Dear Paul:

NASSCO has the following comments on Tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005, NPDES No. CA0109134, Waste Discharge Requirements for National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, San Diego County.

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD

**Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements.**

**Findings 4 & 5.**

Shipbuilding Ways hydrostatic relief water is correctly included in Finding 4. However, Shipbuilding Ways gate and wall leakage is duplicated in both findings and should be deleted from Finding 4 as it is correctly identified in Finding 5.

Graving Dock hydrostatic relief water is overlooked in both findings and should be included in Finding 4.

Miscellaneous low volume water should be listed under Finding 4 rather than Finding 5. This is an existing discharge at NASSCO and is not always diverted to the San Diego Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer System. It is also an approved discharge in the South West Marine, Continental Maritime, and Navy NPDES permits.

**Finding 6.**

This finding identifies the discharges contained in NASSCO's Report of Waste Discharge, dated April 15, 2002. The following discharges, however are not authorized in Finding 4 and should be included in that finding:

1/4



- Fire Protection Water (FP-1, FP-2, FP-3, FP-4 and FP-5),
- Floating Drydock De-ballast Water (M-1),
- Hydrostatic Testing Water-New Vessels (M-5),
- Graving Dock Gate De-ballast Water (M-6), and
- Pipe and Tank Hydrostatic Test Water (M-8).

#### **Finding 7.**

This finding identifies marine fouling organisms removed from unpainted, uncoated surfaces by underwater operations as a discharge that poses less of a threat to water quality than those identified in the earlier findings. Finding 7 should also include ship launch grease/wax and keel block sand, both of which were included in General, Permit No. CAG039001 as low risk discharges controlled by BMP's and no rationale has been presented to change that categorization.

#### **Finding 8.**

This finding states that the Order applies to those discharges associated with ship construction, modification, repair, and maintenance activities over which NASSCO can reasonably be expected to have control.

This Order, like the previous Order, should also state that it does not apply to discharges from vessels that occur at NASSCO's facilities, but are independent of ship construction, repair, maintenance activities or are caused by vessel owners, operators, or crew.

#### **A. Prohibition 3.**

This prohibition prohibits the discharge of "industrial process waste." The Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy refers to "industrial process water," not waste, and exempts cooling water. To be consistent with the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy, this prohibition should refer to "industrial process water" and should include the exemption for cooling water.

#### **B. Discharge Specifications.**

The listed discharges to which the effluent limitations apply should be revised based on the earlier comments and to be consistent with Findings 4 and 5.

**Table 1. Effluent Limitations.**

The effluent limitations in this table do not appear to be consistent with the California Ocean Plan (2001). The Ocean Plan lists the limitations as 75 mg/l for oil and grease, 3.0 ml/l for settleable solids, and 225 NTU for turbidity. These values should be corrected to conform to the California Ocean Plan (2001).

**Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)**

**D. Effluent Monitoring.**

Table 2 includes the monitoring of Ways and Graving Dock Flood Water. General NPDES Permit No. CAG039001 addressed flood water through the use of BMP's, video taping to demonstrate the cleanliness of the facilities, and 48-hour notification to the RWQCB to allow staff inspections of the facilities. This approach proved effective under the previous permit. We request that this approach be continued and that the monitoring provision for Ways and Graving Dock flood water be deleted.

Tentative Order No. R9-2002-0175 required NASSCO to test for:

- Copper in fire protection water and Graving Dock hydrostatic relief water;
- Nickel in Ways 3 hydrostatic relief water; and
- Zinc in Graving Dock hydrostatic relief water.

This requirement was based on staff's review of data provided in NASSCO's Report of Waste Discharge.

Tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005 requires NASSCO to test for copper, nickel and zinc (i. e., all three metals) in fire protection water and all hydrostatic relief water.

As there has been no justification for increasing the analysis required, we request that the monitoring provisions be restored to the original requirements of Tentative Order No. R9-2002-0175.

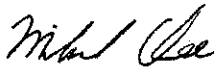
Page M-5 of the MRP requires that the effluent monitoring report include the names of the ship/vessel for which the fire protection system was operated. As this is a facility discharge that is operational all the time and completely independent of the number and type of vessels at the facility, this requirement should be deleted.

**E. Receiving Water Monitoring**

The Tentative MRP requires that receiving water be monitored at the intake for fire protection water, at a representative location not affected by discharge of hydrostatic water and flood water. We request that one reference sample of receiving water be allowed to be submitted to meet this requirement. The locations of these discharges are in close proximity and one sample would be representative of the intakes for each of these discharges.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I can be reached at 619-544-7778, if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



T. Michael Chee  
Environmental Manager

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** John Robertus

**FROM:** Paul J. Richter, WRCE *PJ Richter*  
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

**DATE:** January 28, 2003

**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING COMPANY (NASSCO)  
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS REGARDING TENTATIVE ORDER NO.  
R9-2003-0005  
ITEM NO. 16

Supporting Document 9  
Item No. 16

The Regional Board received a comment letter dated January 23, 2003 from the *National Steel and Shipbuilding Company* (NASSCO) for tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005.

A previous comment letter dated November 27, 2002 from the *San Diego Bay Council* (SDBC), was responded to by memorandum, dated January 23, 2003. The January 23, 2003 memorandum is *Supporting Document 6*, for *Item No. 16* in the Regional Board's February 2003 agenda package.

The identification of the comments in this memorandum attempted to follow the numbering regime in the comment letter. Brief paraphrases of the concerns listed in the letter and staff's response are provided below. Some of the concerns have been grouped into one comment. The original letters should be reviewed to be sure the reader understands the comment and to ensure that I have accurately summarized the comment.

### B. NASSCO letter dated January 23, 2003.

#### **Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

#### **Findings No. 4 & No. 5.**

**Comment 1:** Shipbuilding ways gate and wall leakage is duplicated in each Findings No. 4 & No. 5 and should be deleted from Finding No. 4 as it is correctly identified in Finding 5.

**Response:** The reference to *Shipbuilding ways gate and wall leakage* will be deleted from Finding No. 4.



#### **Finding No. 6.**

**Comment 2:** Finding No. 6 identifies the discharges listed in NASSCO's report of waste discharge; however Finding No. 4 does not list all of the discharges. The following discharges should also be listed in Finding No. 4 as being regulated by the tentative Order.

- Fire Protection Water (FP-1, FP-2, FP-3, FP-4, and FP-5),
- Floating Drydock De-ballast Water (M-1),
- Hydrostatic Testing Water-New Vessels (M-5),
- Graving Dock Gate De-ballast Water (M-6), and
- Pipe and Tank Hydrostatic Test Water (M-8).

**Response:** Finding No. 4 will be modified to include a complete list of discharges, which will be regulated by the tentative Order.

#### **Finding No. 7.**

**Comment:** Finding No. 7 should also include ship launch grease/wax and keel block sand.

**Response:** Finding No. 7 will be modified to include ship launch grease/wax and keel block sand.

#### **Finding No. 8.**

**Comment:** This Finding states that the Order applies to those discharges associated with ship construction, modification, repair, and maintenance activities over which NASSCO can reasonably be expected to have control.

*This Order, like the previous Order, should also state that it does not apply to discharges from vessels that occur at NASSCO's facilities, but are independent of ship construction, repair, maintenance activities or are caused by vessel owners, operators, or crew.*

**Response:** Though Order No. 97-36, Finding No. 3, does include the language as stated above, Finding No. 8 in the tentative Order is sufficient to allow a determination by the Regional Board regarding culpability for discharges that potentially impact water quality.

### **A. Prohibition 3.**

**Comment:** This prohibition prohibits the discharge of *industrial process waste*. The Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy refers to *industrial process water* not to waste, and exempts cooling water. To be consistent with the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy, this prohibition should refer to *industrial process water* and should include the exemption for cooling water.

**Response:** Prohibition A.3 will be modified to change the phrase *industrial process waste* to *industrial process water (other than cooling water)*. The modified phrase is consistent with the current shipyard Order, Order No. 97-36.

### **B. Discharge Specifications.**

**Comment:** The listed discharges to which the effluent limitations apply should be revised based on the earlier comments and to be consistent with Findings 4 and 5.

**Response:** Discharge Specification B.1 will be modified to include the discharges as listed in Findings 4 and 5.

### **Table 1. Effluent Limitations**

**Comment:** The effluent limitations in the table do not appear to be consistent with the California Ocean Plan (2001). The Ocean Plan lists the maximum limitation as 75 mg/L for oil and grease, 3.0 ml/L for settleable solids, and 225 NTU for turbidity. These values should be corrected to conform to the California Ocean Plan (2001).

**Response:** Table 1 will be modified to include the limitations as specified in the California Ocean Plan (2001).

### **Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)**

#### **D. Effluent Monitoring**

**Comment:** Table 2 includes the monitoring of Ways and Graving Dock Flood Water. General NPDES Permit No. CAG039001 (Order No 97-36) addressed flood water through the use of BMP's, video taping to demonstrate the cleanliness of the facilities, and 48-hour notification to the RWQCB to allow staff inspections of the facilities. This approach proved effective under the previous permit. We request that this approach be continued and that the monitoring provisions for Ways and Graving Dock flood water be deleted.

**Response:** The monitoring requirement for the Ways and Graving Dock flood water will allow another evaluation of the discharge and an evaluation of the cleanliness of the facility. Though Table 2 requires monthly monitoring for copper, zinc, and nickel, we understand that the flood water discharges occur only a few times per year. Therefore the monitoring requirement is minimal and the data can be used to assess the discharges.

**Comment:** The tentative Order as drafted for the December 2002 Regional Board meeting, tentative Order No. R9-2002-0175, required NASSCO to monitor for:

- Copper in the fire protection water and Graving Dock hydrostatic relief water;
- Nickel in Ways 3 hydrostatic relief water; and
- Zinc in Graving Dock hydrostatic relief water.

This requirement was based on staff's review of data provided in NASSCO's Report of Waste Discharge.

The tentative Order as drafted for the February 2003 Regional Board meeting, tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005, requires NASSCO to monitor copper, nickel, and zinc (i.e., all three metals) in fire protection water and all hydrostatic relief water.

As there has been no justification for increasing the analysis require, we request the monitoring provisions be restored to the original requirements in the tentative Order drafted for the December 2002 Regional Board meeting, i.e. as in tentative Order R9-2002-0175.

**Response:** A reasonable potential analysis requires a thorough understanding of the discharge. The source of the discharged water is the Bay water for the fire protection water. The source of the discharged water may be considered to be Bay water for the hydrostatic relief waters. The chemical concentrations of the copper, nickel, and zinc, in the fire protection water and the hydrostatic relief water were not uniform or consistent in the initial testing results for the reasonable potential analysis. Since the discharges are similar, it is possible that all three metals are present in each of the discharges. Monitoring for copper, nickel, and zinc from the fire protection water and from the hydrostatic relief water is necessary to characterize the discharges for a reasonable potential analysis.

**Comment:** On page M-5 of the MRP, NASSCO is required to include the names of the ship/vessels for which fire protection water system was operating. The fire protection system discharge is independent of ship or vessel at the facility. Hence this requirement should be deleted.

**Response:** The monitoring program will be modified to delete the requirement to report the name of ship/vessel for which the fire protection system is being operated. We understand that

the fire protection water supplied to the ship/vessel does not re-circulate to the fire protection system's discharge. The fire protection water supplied to the ship/vessel becomes a discharge from the ship/vessel.

#### **E. Receiving Water Monitoring**

**Comment:** The tentative MRP requires that receiving water be monitored at the intake for fire protection water, at a representative locations not affected by the discharge of hydrostatic water and flood water. We request that one reference sample of receiving water be allowed to be submitted to meet this requirement. The locations of these discharges are in close proximity and one sample would be representative of the intakes for each of the discharges.

**Response:** The tentative MRP does not prohibit NASSCO from using one sample location for the intake receiving water monitoring provided the conditions for the sampling are in compliance with the MRP. NASSCO should submit a sampling location map with its discharge monitoring report. The map should identify the intake locations, the discharge locations, and the sampling location, and the characteristics of each location and distance between locations. The characteristics of the location should include, at a minimum, depth, near by structures, a description of the sediment or bottom of the Bay, and any other peculiar or significant characteristics of the sampling location.

**Errata sheet**  
**for**

Supporting Document 10  
Item No. 16

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION

**TENTATIVE** ORDER NO. R9-2003-0005  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0109134

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

NATIONAL STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING COMPANY

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The following changes to tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005 are made to clarify and correct the tentative Order. The deleted text is shown as *strikethrough*; added text is shown as *underlined*.

Any subsequent numbering and minor typographic editing such as table of contents and page numbering will be completed after the adoption of the tentative Order.

**Findings**

Modify **Finding No. 4** as noted.

4. NASSCO's facility operations could result in discharges to San Diego Bay of wastes and pollutants which pose less of a threat than those identified in *Finding 3* above. These discharges are regulated by this Order provided best management practices are implemented. Such discharges include:
- i. Floating drydock submergence/emergence water;
  - ii. Pipe and tank hydrostatic test water;
  - iii. Vessel washdown water;
  - iv. Graving dock flood water;
  - v. Shipbuilding ways flood water;
  - vi. ~~Graving dock gate and wall leakage water~~ Miscellaneous low volume flow;
  - vii. Shipbuilding ways and graving dock ~~gate and wall leakage and~~ hydrostatic relief water; ~~and~~
  - viii. Fire protection water;
  - ix. Floating drydock de-ballasting water;
  - x. Graving dock caisson gate de-ballasting water;

- ~~xi. Hydrostatic testing water—new vessels; and~~
- xii. Storm water runoff other than the first flush of storm water from high risk areas.

Modify **Finding No. 5** as noted.

- 5. The following discharges were regulated by the General Shipyard Permit and are currently being diverted to the San Diego Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer System (SDMSSS). They will be a prohibited discharge to San Diego Bay without prior notification to the Regional Board. Such discharges include:
  - i. Saltbox water;
  - ii. Steam condensate;
  - iii. Compressor and condenser non-contact cooling water;
  - iv. Shipbuilding ways gate and wall leakage water;
  - v. Graving dock gate and wall leakage water; and
  - vi. Floating drydock sump water; and
  - ~~vii. Miscellaneous low volume water.~~

Modify **Finding No. 7** as noted.

- 7. Ship construction, modification, repair, and maintenance activities also result or have the potential to result in discharges to San Diego Bay of wastes and pollutants which pose less of a threat to water quality than the discharges listed above. These discharges include marine fouling organisms removed from unpainted, uncoated surfaces by underwater operations, and ship launch grease/wax and keel block sand.

Modify **Prohibitions A.3** as noted.

- 3. The discharge of industrial process water (other than cooling water) ~~waste~~, as listed in Finding No. 3, is prohibited [Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy (EBEP)].

Modify **Discharge Specifications B.1** as follows:

- 1. The effluent limitations in *Table 1. Effluent Limitations* apply to discharges of
  - Fire Protection Water;
  - Pipe and Tank Hydrostatic Test Water;
  - Hydrostatic Relief Water (Graving Dock, Ways 3, and Ways 4);



- Flood Dewatering (Graving Dock, Ways 3 and Ways 4);
- Hydrostatic Testing Water (New Vessels);
- Floating Drydock De-ballast Water;
- Graving Dock Gate De-ballast Water; and
- Miscellaneous low volume water; and
- Discharges listed in Finding No. 5 (subject to prior notification to Regional Board).
  - i. Saltbox Water,
  - ii. Steam Condensate,
  - iii. Compressor and condenser non-contact cooling water,
  - iv. Shipbuilding ways gate and wall leakage water,
  - v. Graving dock gate and wall leakage water, and
  - vi. Floating drydock sump water, and
  - vii. ~~Miscellaneous low volume water.~~

**Table 1. Effluent Limitations.**

Oil & Grease	mg/l	25
Settleable Solids	ml/l	1.0
Turbidity	NTU	75
pH	pH units	Within limits of 6.0 – 9.0 at all times.
Temperature	Not more than 20° F greater than natural temperature of receiving waters.	

**Table 1. Effluent Limitations.**

<u>Oil &amp; Grease</u>	<u>mg/L</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Settleable Solids</u>	<u>ml/L</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>3.0</u>
<u>Turbidity</u>	<u>NTU</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>225</u>
<u>pH</u>	<u>pH units</u>	<u>Within limits of 6.0 – 9.0 at all times.</u>		
<u>Temperature</u>	<u>Not more than 20° F greater than natural temperature of receiving waters.</u>			

## **Monitoring and Reporting Program**

**No. R9-2003-0005**

shall be modified as noted below.

**Effluent Monitoring D.1** shall be modified as follows.

~~The effluent monitoring report for fire protection water shall include the name of the ship/vessel for which the fire protection system was operated.~~



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Diego Region



**Winston H. Hickox**  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb9/>  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123  
Phone (858) 467-2952 • FAX (858) 571-6972

**Gray Davis**  
Governor

January 28, 2003

**Supporting Document 11**  
**Item No. 16**

Mr. T. Michael Chee  
Manager, Environmental Engineering  
National Steel and Shipbuilding Company  
P.O. Box 85278  
San Diego, CA 92186-5278

File: 03-0066.02

Dear Sir/Madam:

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS MEMORANDA, AND ERRATA SHEET FOR TENTATIVE  
ORDER NO. R9-2003-0005, NPDES NO. CA0109134, WASTE DISCHARGE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING COMPANY, SAN  
DIEGO COUNTY


Enclosed are two memoranda, *National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO), Response to Comments, Item No. 16*, dated January 23, 2003, and January 27, 2003, and an *errata sheet* regarding tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005. The Regional Board received comment letters from the San Diego Bay Council, and NASSCO. Brief paraphrases of the concerns listed in each letter and staff's response are provided in the memoranda.

The Regional Board has schedule a public hearing for the adoption of the tentative Order on Wednesday, February 5, 2003. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at the following location:

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92123-4340

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.*

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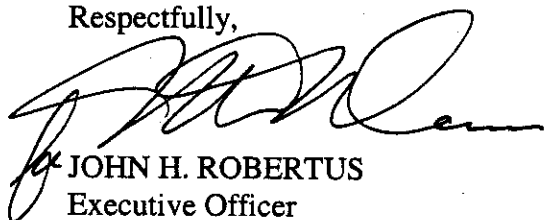
Mike Chee  
Response to comments

- 2 -

January 28, 2003

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Mr. Paul J. Richter at (858) 627-3929, or by e-mail at [richp@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:richp@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov).

Respectfully,



JOHN H. ROBERTUS  
Executive Officer  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

JHR:jrp:pjr

cc: Environmental Health Coalition  
Clean Bay Campaign  
1717 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Attn: Laura Hunter

San Diego BayKeeper  
2924 Emerson Street, Suite 220  
San Diego, CA 92106  
Attn: Bruce Reznik

Mr. Cory Briggs  
Briggs Law Corporation  
5663 Balboa Avenue, No. 376  
San Diego, CA 92111-2705

Enclosures: Mailing List.

Memoranda, *National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)*, *Response to Comments, Item No. 16*, dated January 23, 2003, and January 27, 2003 and copies of respective comment letters.  
Errata sheet for tentative Order No. R9-2003-0005.

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

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